

Howard Parent School Association (HPSA)

HPSA exists to enhance the educational experience of our students and promote a strong community between staff and families of Howard Elementary.

MEETING AGENDA FOR 2/4/2020

Roll Call/ Introductions – 7 attendees

Principal Report - Kristin Ashley

- Lots of kids out sick lately – remind your kids about good hand washing to help out
- Next week Monday is the 100th day of school!
- Tues. and Thurs. winter concert
- Wed. Friendship bingo with student council
- Friday – trainers from NY Teachers College coming to work with teachers on reading and writing curriculum
- Conferences coming up – sheets coming home tomorrow with times
- Feb. 26 – 27 is the Heart Challenge (former Jump Rope for Heart)
- Swimming Celebration – March 19
 - Will be looking for parent volunteers

Treasure Report - Amanda

1. Current balance is \$8,700. Big expense at the end of the year is bussing which was just under \$4000 last year. So we have approx. \$4,700 without any other fundraisers or expenses. We have been starting the year off with at least \$6000 the last couple years. Without any other fundraisers, we will have a low balance for next year. (we will have popcorn, chuck e cheese night and 1 box top checks yet for deposits)

2. Spring stipends?? In the past, it has been \$25 to the main teachers (15) and special ed teachers (4) potential total is \$475. This can be approved in February or March

- We'll vote in March

Old Business

- Gallagher's Fundraiser Night
 - Made \$143.77
- Game Night
 - Quick recap: went well, could use improvement, something we do again?
 - I have heard positive comments about the night and outside of popcorn, it was a pretty easy night. I would do it again
 - Potential to add a fundraising component in future years
 - Potential for additional volunteers from YSL group if needed

New Business

- Popcorn Friday's -
 - Dates - Feb. 21, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 22 (tentative)
 - Volunteers needed
 - Looking for ways to get volunteers next year
 - Maybe have K-1 teachers send out a quick message on SeeSaw next year for new volunteers

- Box Tops - Susie Spoelstra
 - Any Updates
 - Second quarter wining class coming soon!
- Book Fair - February 25 & 27
 - Classroom coin collection
 - Teachers will no longer get a \$5 coupon, instead has changed to \$5 off \$20 purchase
 - Signup genius will be up this week - We NEED volunteers!
 - Will go up on facebook and out via email SOON!
 - Setup Friday, Feb. 21
- Conference Teacher Meals - HPSA To Provide
 - Feb 25 - Taco Bar (Biebel's Catering is willing to donate nacho cheese machine!)
 - Feb 27 – Shredded meat sandwiches, chips and dips, salads, etc.
- Chuck-E-Cheese Night
 - Thursday April 9th - No school Friday!
 - Create FB event after book fair
- Possibility of Marcos over March Madness
 - 20% back online orders; 15% phone orders

Other Items:

- Do we need to do more fundraisers this year?
- Anyone have new ideas or visions for the HPSA
- Teacher Appreciation Week - May 4th - May 8th
 - Activity for the kids? Front board ideas?
 - Will look into ideas for next meeting
- Potential for a movie night in May – possibly as a fundraiser

Special Guests Around 6:30 PM:

- Laura Rowell and Morgan Jessee will be joining us to talk about:
 - Any parent interest in an advisory group for feedback to the School Lunch program?
 - Not much parent interest at this point, but Laura is very willing and interested in meeting with parents to get feedback and provide information regarding the school nutrition program
 - Sample a new menu product for elementary students.
 - We sampled black bean tortilla chips with fire roasted salsa. The fire roasted salsa was made by Morgan Jessee, the district Americorps Farm to School Specialist. Morgan was able to use peppers that had been grown on farmland near the high school tended by the district to make the salsa.
 - Receive feedback on Farm to School efforts and general information to families on the program.
 - The school has 10 acres available to farm for the Farm to School Program
 - 2 acres have been planted, the other 8 leased out
 - Because non-conventional (i.e. organic) farming techniques are used, 2 acres is a significant undertaking and produces a large crop
 - Crop is used in the summer lunch program and provides salad fixings in the school cafeterias on select days in the fall/spring
 - Morgan has been going to into K-4 classrooms regularly to teach the children about where food comes from, how it's grown, and what healthy nutrition looks like.
 - Morgan has also been assisting with some of the High School culinary classes.
 - For more information on any of this, Laura is happy to communicate with families anytime via email or phone!

Upcoming Meetings:

- 3/3 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- 4/7 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- 5/5 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm